

In re Patent Application of:
FULLER
Serial No. 09/740,322
Filed: DECEMBER 18, 2000

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38. A power generation system as defined in Claim 34 wherein the at least one biasing support member further comprises a plurality of substantially parallel elongate spring bars each having a plurality of bracket spring assemblies connected thereto, each of the plurality of bracket spring assemblies comprising a spring mounting frame and a plurality of spaced-apart key block brackets connected to the spring mounting frame.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough examination of the present application. Claim 1 has been amended for clarification. Claims 2-3 have been amended to correct minor informalities. New Claims 30-38 have been added to the application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and the claims by the current amendment. The attached pages are captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

In view of the supporting arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that the claims are patentable.

I. The Claimed Invention

The present invention, as recited in amended independent Claim 1, for example, is directed to a power generation system comprising a stator core frame support member having a lower inner surface portion and a lower outer surface portion. The lower outer surface portion contacts a support surface. The power generation system also includes a generator stator core including a plurality of longitudinally extending keybars spaced-apart along outer peripheral portions of the generator stator core. The generator stator core

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overlies the lower inner surface portion of the stator core frame support member and has a lower end portion spaced-apart from and not in contact with bottom portions of the lower inner surface portion of the frame support member.

The power generation system further includes a core supporter connected to the stator core frame support member. More particularly, the core supporter contacts the plurality of keybars along outer side peripheries of the generator stator core and includes first and second core connecting means for connecting the stator core frame support member to the generator stator core to thereby relieve vibration and prevent lateral movement of the generator stator core, and further stabilize the power generation system during operation.

The first core connecting means is connected to a first medial side outer peripheral portion of the generator stator core. The second core connecting means is connected to a second medial side outer peripheral portion of the generator stator core and positioned opposite the first medial side outer peripheral portion of the generator stator core so that the first and second core connecting means are substantially symmetric about opposite medial side portions of the generator stator core.

The first core connecting means extends substantially parallel to the second core connecting means for substantially the entire length of the generator stator core. Each of the first and second core connecting means further comprises at least one biasing support member that connects the stator core frame support member to the generator stator core. New independent Claim 30 is similar to independent Claim 1.

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II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claim 1 as being anticipated by the Brem et al. patent. More particularly, the Examiner contended that the Brem et al. patent discloses a plurality of spaced-apart keybars.

Applicant submits that the Examiner has mischaracterized the Brem et al. patent. More specifically, Applicant asserts that Brem et al. does not include keybars. Accordingly, Brem et al. cannot disclose a connection between the stator core frame support and the generator stator core along the keybars. Brem et al. includes a generator stator core within a housing that includes support elements between the top and bottom portions of the stator core and the top and bottom portions of the housing. The Examiner labels a plurality of support plates (16, 17) to which pressure bolts are welded as keybars. The Examiner further labels radially extending partitions (38, 39) as keybars. Applicant asserts that neither the support plates, nor the radially extending partitions are the longitudinally extending keybars in the claimed invention.

Applicant further asserts that it is the cylindrical housing that is connected to the outer peripheries of the generator stator core along the top and bottom portions of the generator stator core. More particularly, Brem et al. discloses a lower and an upper mounting part in a housing. Applicant further asserts that the housing feet (5, 6) connect the stator core frame support to the housing, and not to a plurality of longitudinally extending keybars spaced-apart along outer peripheral portions of the generator stator core.

Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claims 1 and 30 are patentable over the prior art. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing

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features, are also patentable over the prior art and require no further discussion herein.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments presented above, it is submitted that all of the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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